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TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

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CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

S. Vietnam

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COUNTRY: SOUTH VIETNAM | REPORT NO.: TDCS DB-3/655,605

SUBJECT: MAJOR GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH COMMENTS ON THE CURRENT SITUATION AND ON THE NEED FOR A CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM | DATE DISTRC: 18 JULY 1963 | PRECEDENCE: ROUTINE

DATE OF INFO: 13-16 JULY 1963 | COPIES: 1413 | THE REFERENCES LINE WHICH HAD 82003

PLACE & DATE ACQ: VIETNAM, SAIGON (17 JULY 1963) | HIS LATEX WITH REGARD TO THE

APPRaisal: SEE BELOW | FIELD REPORT NO.: FVS-9322

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADING ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

SOURCE:

APPR: GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH PROBABLY HOLDS THESE VIEWS AND IS ONE OF THOSE WHO IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN DISGRUNTLED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM SINCE 1960. EVEN THOUGH HE HAS NOT SO EXPRESSED HIMSELF PREVIOUSLY.

1. SUMMARY: ON 16 JULY 1963 MAJOR GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH, WHO WAS THE CAO DVI MEMBER FOR DIVISIONS 11 AND 12, THE MILITARY ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT DIEM, CRITICIZED THE PRESIDENT, SAID THAT DIEM LOST THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE AND THE ARMY BECAUSE THAT HE LACKED THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE, AND ADVOCATED A CHANGE IN THE REGIME, BUT ASSERTED THAT NGO DINH NHU COULD NOT TAKE OVER THE GOVERNMENT.

GOVINDING RIDES A MAMMOTHE FROM HEAVEN: THIS WAS QUOTED IN HIS REMAINING COMMAND OF THE 1ST DIVISION.

2. GENERAL MINH MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

AFTER NGO DINH CHANGED CONGRESSIONAL BECOMING CONVINCED THAT HE WAS

A. PRESIDENT DIEM HAS CHANGED SO COMPLETELY THAT IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO REASON WITH HIM. IN THE EARLY DAYS HE HAD THE SKEPTICISM HIMSELF IN AND BY 1962 HE HAD GOT CONFRONTATION WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE AND WAS VERY POPULAR THROUGHOUT SOUTH VIETNAM.

GOVINDING RIDES A MAMMOTHE FROM HEAVEN: THEN HE BEGAN

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IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER AT THAT TIME TO GAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE PEASANTS FOR THE VARIOUS PROGRAMS OF THE GOVERNMENT. THEN HE BEGAN SCREENING HIMSELF IN AND BY 1959 HE HAD LOST COMPLETE TOUCH WITH THE PEOPLE. THAT MAY HAVE BEEN THE TIME TO HAVE CHANGED THE GOVERNMENT.

AFTER 1960 DIEM CHANGED COMPLETELY, BECOMING CONVINCED THAT HE WAS OPERATING UNDER A MANDATE FROM HEAVEN. THIS WAS APPARENT IN HIS REMARKS ON 7 JULY WHEN HE SAID THAT THE COUNTRY WAS GUIDED BY "INTUITIVE WISDOM."

THE BEGINNING 1961 HE TALKED WITH MINH WHO STATED VOLK LIKE CAO DAH AND B. THE BUDDHIST ISSUE IS AN ILLUSTRATION OF DIEM'S IRRATIONAL ATTITUDE. HE FUCKED THE PEOPLE OF THE LEADER AND DEMANDED A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE. DIEM TOLD MINH ON 13 JULY THAT THE BINH XUYEN, THE HOA

HAO, AND THE CAO DAT WERE ALL STRONGER THAN THE BUDDHISTS. THEY

ON 18 JULY 1963 MINH TALKED WITH GENERAL DONG ANH NHAN. HE HAD REGULAR ARMED TROOPS BUT THE GOVERNMENT WAS STILL UNABLE TO DEFEAT THEM, SO WHY CANNOT THE GOVERNMENT ALSO DEFEAT THE MONKS,

WHO HAVE NEITHER ARMS NOR MILITARY ORGANIZATION? MINH WAS UNABLE

TO CONVINCE THE PRESIDENT THAT THE SITUATIONS WERE NOT THE SAME

BECAUSE OF THE RIGID STAND DIEM HAS TAKEN WITH REGARD TO THE

BUDDHISTS. COMMENT. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME MINH HAS MADE SUCH STRONG STATEMENTS AGAINST DIEM.)

THE BUDDHIST PROBLEM IS FAR FROM SETTLED. IT IS BECOMING WORSE AND UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT CHANGES ITS POLICY THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL BUDDHIST SELF-SIMMOATIONS.

D. THERE MUST BE A CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT. SOUTH VIETNAM

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IS LIKE A YOUNG TREE; IT HAS FIRM ROOTS AND IS GROWING BUT IT MUST HAVE A PROPER ATMOSPHERE SO THAT ITS LEAVES, I.E., THE PEOPLE, CAN BREATHE. THIS IS SLACKING IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

V.E. (NGO DINH NHU) CAN NEVER TAKE OVER THE GOVERNMENT; (SHOULD HE SUCCEED, IT WOULD PROVE THAT THE VIET CONG (VC) ARE RIGHT IN CLAIMING THAT THE VC ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO REALLY FIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE.) [REDACTED] COMMENTED MAJOR GENERAL TRAN VAN DON, COMMANDING 3RD GENERAL OF THE ARMY, AND BRIGADIER GENERAL LE VAN KIM, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, (ARE MINH'S CLOSE FRIENDS!) [REDACTED] A VACA ALONG WHOSE SERVICE PRESIDENT NGUYEN NGOC THO TOLD MINH ON 15 JULY THAT IT WAS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VINH BUDDHISTS AND THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS CERTAIN KEY VINH INDIVIDUALS, (INDEED, THEENHUS AND ARCHBISHOP NGO DINH THUG, WHADOL HE BECOME INVOLVED. THO HAS BEEN WANTING TO RESIGN BUT WAS NOT EVEN PERMITTED TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF RESIGNATION; HE STILL INTENDS TO DO SO THROUGH HIMSELF, HOWEVER.) (FILED COMMENT ON FVS-9243, (TDCS-3/552,503,

H.) REPORTED THAT VINH HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT THO'S WRITTEN RESIGNATION, ASUBMITTED 20 JULY. FVS-9256, (TDCS-3/552,565,) REPORTED THO'S STATEMENT THAT HE WANTED TO RESIGN BUT WAS UNCERTAIN AS TO THE TIMING.) 12. THE WINNING OF THE WAR AGAINST THE VC IS NOT SURE A

G. IF THE MILITARY PRESSURE AGAINST THE VC CAN BE CONTINUED

AT THE PRESENT RATE FOR A YEAR, THE ARMY CAN DISRUPT THE VC ARMED

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THE WINNING OF THE WAR AGAINST THE VC IS NOT SIMPLY A MILITARY PROBLEM, HOWEVER, BUT ONE THAT REQUIRES THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE, AND THIS IS LACKING.

H. NO TROUBLE IS ANTICIPATED FROM THE VC ON THE 20 JULY ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE GENEVA ACCORDS; BUT THE STUDENTS MIGHT CAUSE TROUBLE BECAUSE OF THE SUICIDE OF OPPOSITIONIST NGUYEN TUONG ETAM. OMAED 1100 HRS 08 SEP 1971
THE 1100 BRIGADIER GENERAL DO CAO TRI WILL REMAIN IN COMMAND OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION FOR THE TIME BEING AND BRIGADIER GENERAL LE VAN NGHIEM WILL REMAIN IN COMMAND OF I CORPS, WHICH PLACES NGHIEM IN AN IMPOSSIBLE POSITION AS THE TWO MEN DO NOT GET ALONG WELL WITH EACH OTHER. OCTR 1'S PROMOTION WAS DESERVED BECAUSE HE IS A VERY STRONG FIGHTER. OE (FIELD COMMENT. SFVS-9302, EDOSDB-3/655, 512,) REPORTED NHU'S STATEMENT THAT OCTR 1 HAD BEEN PROMOTED AND NAMED COMMANDER OF I CORPS.

FVS-9267, (DDB-3/552,485) RECORDED: NGHI EM'S STATEMENT OF HIS DESIRE
TO RESIGN FROM THE ARMY; ONE THAT THE ARVN CONG (AC) ARE BICHL IN

3. E' FIELD DISSEM. IN STATE (AMBASSADOR ENCLING), USMACV (GENERAL HARKINS ONLY), CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC /PACAF.

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